

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 891

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., Third Annual Living Legend Awards honoree.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those estimable individuals who have dedicated their time and energies toward enhancing the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., who is being honored at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards in recognition of the leadership and service he has provided to the people of Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, the Third Annual Living Legend Awards ceremony, which honors Harriet Tubman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis on March 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Acey is a retired assistant professor of African-American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication at the University of Memphis in the Department of Communication; he served as director of African-American Studies at the university from 1979 to 1985 and designed several Afrocentric courses that are still taught in the department; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acey has focused on developing strategies to encourage African-American participation in public life and to improve intergroup communication and race relations from a multicultural perspective; he firmly believes that an understanding of and appreciation for one's own ethnic traditions and heritage will increase respect for other ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, to these ends, Dr. Acey co-founded and organized the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., thirty-three years ago with his wife, Yvonne B. Acey; he currently serves as executive director of the nonprofit organization, which sponsors year-round

activities and the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival that celebrates the arts, history, culture, and diversity of the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Acey is a valuable member of the National African-American Studies Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the National Coalition of 100 Black Men, Inc., the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades for his innovative work, Dr. Acey has received the City of Memphis Heritage Trailblazer Award, the EbenWorld Impact Award, the State of Tennessee's Harold Love Community Service Award, the University of Memphis's Lifetime Achievement Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Community Service Award (The University of Memphis), and the University of Memphis's Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Human Rights Award; and

WHEREAS, a member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood, Inc., Dr. Acey is grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Yvonne B. Acey, and their son, David L. Acey II; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Acey is an exemplary individual; his commitment to excellence and community service is representative of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we congratulate Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., upon his recognition at the Third Annual Living Legend Awards, applaud his outstanding community leadership, and extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.